

## PRESBYTERY DIGEST

A summary of actions & information from the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery

December 5, 2019

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Moderator Rev. Steven Werth called the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery to order and opened with prayer at 1:00 PM.

The chartering of the Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian Church was celebrated with members of the New Worshipping Communities Commission and of the congregation leading worship. Ruling Elder Vera White shared the message. During worship, an offering of \$1,610.00 was received for equal distribution to the [Lazarus Fund](#) and the [Hunger Fund](#). This amount will be matched by the [Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation](#).

From the Executive Committee:

*(detailed information of items with an \* may be found in the minutes of the Presbytery meeting)*

Recommended the following for presbytery action; **approved**:

- approval of the 2020 terms of call for the General and Associate Minister\*
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of one deacon of the Beechview United Presbyterian Church
- receive and file for audit the presbytery financial statements for the months of August and September 2019
- approval of the request of the Crestfield Camp & Conference Center Board of Directors to amend the Covenant Agreement with Pittsburgh Presbytery by striking item 10 of obligations relating to the denominational affiliation of the Executive Director\*
- election of members of the Committee on Representation\*
- approval of the request that Pittsburgh Presbytery become a Matthew 25 Mid Council\*

Reported the following:

- Pittsburgh Presbytery has received a clean audit for 2018
- Ruling Elder Bob Crynack has been elected as chair of the Personnel Committee for 2020
- approved the housing allowance allocations requested by the pastoral staff for 2020

From the Stated Clerk:

Reported the following:

- the deadline for docket time and waiver requests for the February 13 presbytery meeting is no later than noon on Wednesday, January 15
- remaining deadlines for docket times and waiver requests for 2020:

Wednesday, April 8 (presbytery meeting on May 14)

Wednesday, August 26 (presbytery meeting on September 24)

- Wednesday, November 4 (presbytery meeting on December 10)
- receipt of accusation in disciplinary action
  - dismissal of remedial action and request for special administrative review\*
  - new clerk of session training scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 1 at the presbytery center; snow date is Saturday February 8
  - presbytery review of 2018 session minutes and rolls\*
  - overtures 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, brought by the Presbyterian Men, were tabled in order to be put in acceptable form\*
  - overture 3, brought by the Presbyterian Men, was amended and tabled until the February 2020 meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery\*

Recommended the following; approved:

- concurrence with Overture 02 to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from the Presbytery of Beaver-Butler\*
- a minister member currently under disciplinary censure be restored to good standing for the purpose of immediately being granted permission to set aside his ordination and have his membership transferred to a particular congregation\*
- chartering of the Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian Church; was approved as chartered and is a congregation of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective December 5

Recommended approval & dismissal of the following administrative commissions; approved & dismissed:

- to ordain and install Emily Cooper\*
- to install the Rev. Charissa Howe\*
- to ordain Stephanie Martin\*
- to ordain Dr. Martha Neba-Mbandi\*
- to ordain and install Rebecca Reeder\*
- to install the Rev. James Tinnemeyer\*
- to install the Rev. Tara Woodard-Lehman\*

From Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Reported the following:

- Pre-Care Consultations were conducted with Rebecca Abbott (Unity Presbyterian Church) and Jason Dauer (The Open Door Presbyterian Church)
- Rebecca Abbott and Jason Dauer were Enrolled as Inquirers
- Brendan Ashley (Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville) was Received as Candidate
- Initial Consultation was conducted with Rebecca Young
- Annual Consultation was conducted with Brendan Ashley
- Cassandra Riker was given permission to take Bible Exegesis and Theological Competence Senior Ordination Examinations

From the General Minister:

- remembered the recent retirement of the Rev. Dr. Beverly James and the necessity of reviewing the staffing pattern of the presbytery; the Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby (HR) has agreed to a temporary, part-time position to assist in this transition
- lifted up the need for congregations to proclaim boldly the message of reconciliation in Jesus Christ, especially in response to the great divisions in our country over matters such as presidential impeachment and upcoming general elections

From the Freedom Rising Steering Team:

- presented the following recipients of grants who shared their work:

Ms. Cecelia Ware, founder of the *Saving Our Sons & Daughters Drop-In Center*, a ministry of Infinite Lifestyle Solutions

Mr. Jeff Williams, director of the *Diversion Program*, a ministry of the Foundation of HOPE

- reminded the presbytery of plans for receiving a special offering on January 19, *Freedom Rising Sunday*, to continue to support this ministry

From the Commission on Ministry:

Reported the completion of the following contracts between:

- the Rev. Dr. David Wood and the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church effective November 30, 2019
- the Rev. Bob Ruefle and the Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church effective December 31, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following calls; approved by consent:

- Unity United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Derek Campbell as Pastor effective November 25, 2019
- Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia, for the services of the Rev. Nicole Atkinson as Pastor effective December 1, 2019
- Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community for the services of the Rev. Erin Michelle Jones as Pastor effective December 1, 2019

Moved presbytery approved the following contract; approved by consent:

- Hawthorne Avenue Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Elder Paul Nigra as Commissioned Pastor for one year effective January 1, 2020

Moved presbytery approve the following appointments for moderators; approved by consent:

- the Rev. Derek Campbell as Moderator of the Unity United Presbyterian Church effective November 25, 2019
- the Rev. Nicole Atkinson as Moderator of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia, effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. Erin Michelle Jones as Moderator of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. William Youmans as Moderator of the Bethany Presbyterian Church effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. Diane Flynn as Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram effective November 1, 2019
- the Rev. Jim Gilchrist as Moderator of the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. David Wood as Moderator of the Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. David Wood as Moderator of the Pleasant Unity United Presbyterian Church effective December 1, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following letters of reception: **approved by consent:**

- the Rev. Derek Campbell from Redstone Presbytery effective November 25, 2019
- the Rev. Nicole Atkinson from Redstone Presbytery effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. William Youmans from Washington Presbytery effective December 5, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following temporary membership enrollment; **approved by consent:**

- the Rev. Erin Michelle Jones, a member of the Southwest PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, effective December 1, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following Temporary Pastoral Contracts; **approved by consent:**

- Bethany Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. William Youmans as Interim Pastor for one-year effective December 1, 2019
- Northmont United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Stephanie Martin as Temporary Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation for one-year effective October 1, 2019
- Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. David Wood as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective December 1, 2019
- Pleasant Unity United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. David Wood as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective December 1, 2019

Moved presbytery grant a letter of dismissal to the following; **approved by consent:**

- the Rev. Christine Chakoian to Presbytery of the Pacific, effective August 1, 2019
- the Rev. Scott Shetter to Washington Presbytery effective August 1, 2019
- the Rev. Tom Moore to Washington Presbytery effective November 12, 2019
- the Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs to Washington Presbytery effective November 12, 2019

- the Rev. Elizabeth Hewett to the Presbytery of Western Reserve effective November 25, 2019
- the Rev. Benjamin Rumbaugh to the Lake Michigan Presbytery, effective September 14, 2019

Moved presbytery grant a letter of dissolution to the following; approved:

- Bethany Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of the Rev. Dr. John Hamilton effective December 15, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following administrative commissions to Install; approved by consent:

- the Rev. Derek Campbell as Pastor of the Unity United Presbyterian Church on January 12, 2020
- the Rev. Nicole Atkinson as Pastor of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia on January 12, 2020

Announced the honorable retirement of the following individuals by consent:

- the Rev. Dr. Beverly James effective November 15, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. David Wood effective December 1, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. John Hamilton effective December 16, 2019

Announced pastors who have entered into the Church Triumphant:

- the Rev. Dr. Gilbert Fitzsimmons (October 6, 2019)
- the Rev. Darlene Hann (October 17, 2019)
- the Rev. Thomas Menk (October 20, 2019)

From the Committee on Nominations:

- Elder Mark Roth, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, was elected as Senior Vice-Moderator in 2020

Presented the following nominees for service as committee/commission members; approved & elected:

Executive Committee

- Elder Jim Gockley, Shadyside (2022A) – East
- Elder Cliff Huff, Glenshaw Valley (2022B) – North
- Elder Kears Pollock, Parkwood (2022B) – North
- Elder John Van Cleve, Westminster (2022A) – West
- the Rev. Elisabeth Hartwell, Hiland (2022A) – North
- the Rev. Tom Hall, First Pittsburgh (2022 A) – South
- the Rev. Cathie Smith, Bethel Park (2022A) – South

## Commission on Ministry

- Elder Ann Turnock, Beulah (2022B) – East
- Elder Susan Herrle, Wexford (2022B) – North
- Elder Earle Wooding, Pleasant Hills (2022B) – South
- Elder Jodi Dukes, First, Rennerdale (2022A) – West
- Elder Nancy Stanny, Oakdale (2022A) – West
- The Rev. Dr. Bob Maravalli, Beechview (2021B) – North
- the Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby, HR (2021B) – North
- the Rev. Dre. Colleen Molinaro, Carnegie (2022A) – West
- the Rev. Nancy Titus, Valley (2022A) – West

## Commission on Preparation for Ministry

- Elder Nat Hunter, Shadyside (2022A) – East
- Elder Kaye Wentling, Hillcrest (2022B) – East
- Elder Peggy Bonfiglio, 1st Tarentum (2022B) – North
- Elder Jim Weikel, Ken Mawr (2022A) - West
- Elder Amanda Wade, Clinton, (2022A) – West
- the Rev. Elizabeth Michael Ross, Community of Reconciliation (2022A) - East
- the Rev. Phil Beck, 1st Tarentum (2022B) – North
- the Rev. Dr. Ted Martin, Hampton (2022A) – North
- the Rev. DJ Shin, Korean UP (2022A) – North
- the Rev. Dr. Bob Walkup, Baldwin (2022B) – South

## Response Team

- Elder Jane Fox, Sixth (2022B) – East
- the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Jones, HR (2022B) – North
- the Rev. Caitlin Werth, Specialized (2022A) – North

## Foundation

- Elder Christine Farrell, Fox Chapel (2022A)
- Elder Fred Shields, Oakmont (2021B)
- Elder Lenore Williams, East Liberty (2022A)
- the Rev. Eric Dennis, Linway (2022A)
- the Rev. Lee Scott, Specialized Ministry (2022B)

## Synod Commissioner

- the Rev. Carol Divens Roth, At-Large (2022A)

## General Assembly Commissioners (By Rotation and Executive Committee)

- Elder Mark Roth (East Liberty) (*nominated by virtue of Moderatorial office*)\*
  - Elder Dawn Harvin (Grace Memorial)\*
  - Elder John Ferguson (Crafton United)
  - Elder Eddie Willson (East Liberty)
  - the Rev. Charissa Howe (Emsworth/St. Andrews) (*nominated by office*)\*
  - the Rev. Dr. Tammy Wiens (Validated Ministry)\*
  - the Rev. David Wood (Deer Creek and Pleasant Unity)
  - the Rev. Scott Hill (Aspinwall)
- \* indicates a nominee appointed by the Executive Committee

#### Alternates

- Elder Bob Crynack (Glenshaw)
- Elder Judith Jerry (Bidwell)
- the Rev. Nancy Titus (Valley)
- the Rev. Jodi Flack (Rennerdale)
- the Rev. Jane Esterline (Plum Creek)

#### Young Adult Advisory Delegate

- Samuel Smallwood (East Union)

#### Young Adult Advisory Delegate Alternate

- Isaac Degenholtz (East Liberty)

A Resolution of Thanks was extended to the congregation and staff of the host congregation, John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Closing Prayer was offered by the Rev. Erin Jones, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community